concerned Department for implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As no decision has yet been taken by the Government in this regard, the question of furnishing the details does not arise.

(c) All the decisions of the Government are taken only after due discussions with the concerned Departments. In this case also, no departure from the above stated practice will be made when and if the proposal is finalized.

Proposal for different Fares for Peak and Non-Peak Periods

*235. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce different fares for peak and non-peak periods; if so, the purpose thereof;

(b) what are the details of the plan in this regard;

(c) whether the non-peak periods have been identified for lesser fares; and

(d) by when the scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) At present there is no proposal to introduce peak and non-peak fares for passenger trains.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Degrees of Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeths

*236. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeths are deemed Universities;

(b) if so, whether information to this effect has been sent to all the Government organisations;

(c) whether Government are aware that degrees of some of the Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeths are not being recognised by the defence forces, particularly for the posts of religious teachers; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Eight Kendriya Sanakrit Vidyapeeths which are constituent bodies of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan are not deemed Universities. However, there are three Sanskrit Vidyapeeths namely, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati, Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi and Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Viswa Mahavidyalaya, Kancheepuram, which are declared as deemed Universities under the UGC Act. It is ascertained from the Ministry of Defence that they follow the circular issued by the Department of Personnel dt. 21.11.1990 in the recruitment of religious teachers for defence forces, which, *inter-alia*, recognizes the degrees of Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeths.

Women Working as Prostitutes

*237. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women working as prostitutes in India, according to the post-1991 Central Welfare Board Survey;

(b) how many of them are working in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai;

(c) the number of Nepali girls brought from across the border and put into prostitution during the decade;

(d) what steps Government have taken to protect minor girls from being forced into prostitution; and

(e) how many brothels have been closed down and minor girls rescued in Maharashtra, after the 1996 judgement of Chief Justice of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) In 1992, the Central Social Welfare Board had conducted a multi-centric study on prostitution in six metropolitan cities namely, Mumbai, Calcutta, Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad. As per the Study, the number of prostitutes will be 70,000 to 1,00,000 operating in the six cities.

(c) As per the above survey, 2.6% of India's prostitutes are Nepalese girls.

(d) The Government is very much concerned with the phenomenon of prostitution in society and has drawn up a national Plan of Action with the